AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

F.A.P. 301 (US Rte. 20)
Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS, (CONT'D.)

Section — Page

LIST OF TABLES

Number Page

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit | Page

LIST OF APPENDICES

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW CRITERIA

FOR

FAP ROUTE 301 (US 20)
SECTION 43-1, -2, -3, -4, -5, & 177-1, -2
IL 84 (N) TO BOLTON ROAD (FREEPORT)
JO DAVIESS & STEPHENSON COUNTIES

The items listed below are areas of concern which need to be addressed in order for the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to properly complete its review of the agricultural impacts associated with the construction of the above referenced highway improvement. The IDOA would ask that these same concerns be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared on the project.

1. The location of the project plotted on a county highway map, plat map, or other map of equal or better quality.

2. Acres of additional right-of-way proposed for acquisition via fee acquisition for all purposes. Land acquisitions should be broken down by category (i.e. - mainline, frontage and access roads, uneconomical remnants, borrow sites, wetland mitigation, woodland mitigation, floodplain compensatory storage, etc.).

3. Length of the project.

4. Acres of each soil type proposed for fee acquisition (provide only if alternatives are proposed).

5. What percent of the roadway will be constructed . . .

   A. On the centerline of the existing roadway?

   B. Parallel and adjacent to the existing centerline?

   C. On entirely new alignment?

6. Are design standards being utilized that will minimize the need to acquire right-of-way? If not, please explain.

7. Will the surface and subsurface drainage of adjacent fields (if applicable) be maintained so as to function as well or better after construction as before construction? If not, please explain.

8. Will the project's erosion control plan be submitted to the Jo Daviess and Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts for review and comment prior to its implementation? If not, please explain.

9. Number and type of building relocations required.

10. Number, acreage, and location of each of the following that will be created:

    A. Uneconomical remnants.

    B. Severed parcels.

    C. Landlocked parcels.

11. Will any permanent adverse travel be generated? If so, please provide the following information:

    A. Number of landowners and/or operators incurring adverse travel.

    B. Miles of adverse travel each landowner and/or operator will sustain (per round trip).

12. Will any off-site agricultural land be utilized for obtaining borrow materials? If so, please provide the following information for each site:

    A. Acreage.

    B. Current land use.

    C. Location as plotted on a county Soil Survey map (if available).

    D. If borrow materials are to be contractor supplied, could the project contract specify that no Prime farmland can be utilized for borrow purposes in order to minimize the project's farmland conversion impacts?

13. Will any off-site agricultural land be purchased for wetland mitigation, tree replacement, and/or floodplain compensatory storage? If so, please provide the following information for each site:

    A. Acreage.

    B. Current land use.

    C. Proposed land use.

    D. Location as plotted on a county Soil Survey map (if available).

    E. If any Prime farmland is proposed for acquisition, please explain why a non-Prime site(s) is not being considered.

14. Acreage and location of any agricultural land to be acquired via fee acquisition that will remain available for agricultural use. Please state why this land is not being offered for sale to an adjacent landowner.

15. If any utility lines need to be relocated on privately-owned land, please provide the following information:

A. Nature of the relocation(s) required.

B. Distance the utility line(s) will be located from the edge of the highway right-of-way.

C. Why will the utility line(s) not be relocated on the highway right-of-way in order to minimize the project's agricultural impacts?

16. Actions that will be taken to mitigate the project's adverse agricultural impacts. Please provide a discussion of:

A. Actions that will be taken to minimize the taking of agricultural land via fee simple acquisition for highway right-of-way purposes.

B. Actions that will be taken to minimize or eliminate the taking of Prime farmland for the purpose of mitigating for other natural resource impacts.

C. Actions that will be taken to avoid the taking of Prime farmland for use in creating floodplain compensatory storage.

D. Actions that will be taken to avoid the use of Prime farmland for borrow purposes.

E. Actions that will be taken to minimize or eliminate:

1. Uneconomical remnants.

2. Severed parcels.

3. Landlocked parcels.

4. Adverse travel.

F. Other actions that will be taken to mitigate the project's adverse agricultural impacts.

NOTES: Agricultural land or farmland means all land in farms including cropland, hayland, pastureland, forestland, corrals, gardens and orchards, land used for farmsteads, buildings, barns, and machinery sheds, adjacent yards or corrals, pens, waste lagoons, feedlots, farmstead or feedlot windbreaks, grain bins, lanes for farm residences and fields, field windbreaks, ponds, commercial feedlots, greenhouses, nurseries, broiler facilities and farm landing strips.

Prime and Important farmland can be identified by contacting the appropriate county Soil and Water Conservation District.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS
F.A.P. 407 (ILLINOIS ROUTE 336)
ADAMS AND HANCOCK COUNTIES

VOLUME I

TABLE OF CONTENTS
F.A.P. 407 (ILLINOIS ROUTE 336)
ADAMS AND HANCOCK COUNTIES
(CONTINUED)

TABLE OF CONTENTS
F.A.P. 407 (ILLINOIS ROUTE 336)
ADAMS AND HANCOCK COUNTIES
(CONTINUED)

VOLUME II

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A (1-19) ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

APPENDICES

US 20 STUDY
STEPHENSON & JO DAVIES COUNTIES

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NATURAL RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Players

- Biological Resources Unit
- INHS
- Consultant
- District 2

- Biological Resources Unit
  - Initiate Biota Studies with INHS
    - Letter to INHS Describing Studies
  - Oversee Biota Studies of INHS
    - Direct Species Review
  - Coordination to NHDB for Update
  - Review INHS Submittals
  - Provide Consultant With INHS Data for Consultant Write-Up
  - Guide Development of Technical Report
  - Coordinate Technical Report With Natural Resources Agencies
- INHS
  - Perform Biota Studies
    - Cover Type Mapping, Vegetation Sampling
    - Fish
    - Mussels
    - Mammals
    - Herps - (Other Expert)

- INHS - (Continued)
  - Perform Biota Studies
    - Birds
    - Plants
    - T & E Species
    - Wildlife Corridor(s) Evaluation
  - Perform Assessment for Natural Area Potential
- Consultant
  - Analysis of INHS Data
  - Prepares Natural Resources Technical Report
    - Describes Quantity and Quality of Existing Ecological Environment
      - Terrestrial, Aquatic, Geological, Wetlands
    - Addresses Sensitivity of Environment to Project
      - Cover Types - Dominants, Disturbance, Uniqueness
      - Habitat Losses & Describe Specifics Relationship to Cover Types
      - Species Impact (Type, Degree, Biodiversity)
      - Alteration of Landscape
      - Barriers
      - Fragmentation
      - Loss of Wooded Corridors
      - Mitigation of Impacts
        - Avoidance
        - Revegetation (Tree & Prairie Replacement)
        - Construction Sequencing
        - Erosion Control Measures
        - Restoration

        - Enhancement of Conditions for Wildlife
            - Biodiversity
    - Provides Required Copies of Technical Report for Agency Review
    - Attends Meetings with Natural Resource Agencies
    - Prepares and Analyzes Required Changes to Technical Report Subsequent to Agency Comments
    - Prepares Biological, Sections for EIS
        - Sections Dependent Upon Results of Coordination of Technical Report and INHS Studies
- District 2
    - Attends Meetings With Natural Resource Agency
    - Prepares Schedule for Items
    - Reviews Reports

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Go to page 33